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NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D.C. 20418

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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DATE: November 7, 1991

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

FAX NUMBER: (202) 647-7350

TO: The Honorable Richard H. Solomon
Assistant Secretary of State
East Asian and Pacific Affairs
U.S. Department of State

FROM: Dr. Eliot Stellar *ES*
Chair, Committee on Human Rights
National Academy of Sciences

NUMBER OF PAGES: 11
(Including cover sheet)

MESSAGE: In behalf of the members of the NAS Committee on Human Rights, I would like to draw your attention to the enclosed letter that we sent to Secretary Baker last week expressing concern about the plight of our imprisoned Chinese colleagues. Anything that you can do to assist us in our efforts in behalf of these individuals would be very much appreciated.

Please contact the Committee on Human Rights by telephone at 202/334-3043 or by fax at 202/334-2225 if there is a problem with the transmittal.

*OVIP - Baker 66
Correspondence*

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October 30, 1991

The Honorable James A. Baker, III
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We would like to draw your attention to a situation that concerns us deeply, that of our scientific colleagues detained and imprisoned in the People's Republic of China. As you may know, the National Academy of Sciences sponsors a cooperative exchange program with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and other scientific institutions in China. At the same time, through our Committee on Human Rights, it vigorously defends the human rights of scientific colleagues in China. To this end we have compiled a list of 30 scientists and others in science-related positions who have been detained or imprisoned in China on political grounds.

It is our hope that on your proposed visit to the People's Republic of China, you will bring the enclosed list to the attention of the Chinese authorities. We have shared the list with Ambassador Schifter and with former Undersecretary Robert M. Kimmitt and they have indicated that these names would be raised by U.S. officials in discussions with the Chinese authorities concerning human rights. To date, Chinese officials have not responded to our numerous private inquiries and appeals in behalf of these prisoners.

We would in particular draw your attention to the cases of CHEN ZIMING, WANG JUNTAO and LIU GANG. Both Chen and Wang, who are well-known economists, were sentenced to lengthy 13 year prison terms for their purported role in the 1989 democracy movement and only recently, following an international outcry, were removed from five months of solitary confinement. Physicist Liu Gang was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment for his support of the democracy movement and was held for nine months in solitary confinement.

We would very much appreciate if, in your discussions on human rights, you would urge the release from imprisonment and detention of prisoners of conscience and in particular call

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attention to the specific cases noted above and contained in the enclosed list.

We are most grateful for the assistance you can provide in behalf of our imprisoned colleagues.

Yours,

Eliot Stellar

Eliot Stellar
Chair

Enclosure

cc: E. William Colglazier
Frank Press
James Wyngaarden